

W5YI REPORT

Up to the minute news from the worlds of amateur radio, personal computing and emerging electronics. While no guarantee is made, information is from sources we believe to be reliable. May be reproduced providing credit is given to The W5YI Report.

Dits & Bits

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FCC Further Deregulates Amateur Testing

The FCC has released a Public Notice (dated November 10th) advising that the rules have been amended transferring maintenance of the question pools for all amateur radio operator examinations to the various VEC's effective December 31, 1986. The Commission's action is a further step in the privatization of examination functions in the Amateur Radio Service.

This means volunteer examiner coordinators - and not the Commission - will now be revising the written questions for all amateur radio operator examinations in the future. The question pools (which must be available to the public before VE use) must contain at least ten times the number of questions required for a single examination.

The various 1035 series PR Bulletins detailing the present Study Guide and pool questions now becomes obsolete. While it probably will not happen, the potential exists to have different sets of questions among the various VEC organizations.

In addition, a package detailing other new VEC testing system guidelines has been forwarded to each VEC group for implementation effective December 31, 1986. The new Technician Class and higher procedures taking effect are:

(1.) VE's are authorized to select the ques-

tions that will be used in the examinations they administer. VEC's must provide volunteer examiners with sufficient instructions to insure properly designed examinations. VE teams may elect to continue obtaining pre-packaged question sets from their VEC ...or may use test sets obtained from another supplier as long as examination designs are properly prepared and kept secure against disclosure. This decision rests with the volunteer examiner.

(2.) A new type of volunteer examiner will exist with the new year - that being a "Preparing VE." They assist the VEC in preparation of written and Morse code examinations. Preparing VE's, who need not be accredited by the VEC, must have passed a higher class amateur examination (if one exists) than the examination being prepared.

(3.) New Part 97.517(b,c) spells out who may prepare the various examinations. Advanced Class amateurs can submit Element 2 or 3 questions (required for the Novice and Technician Class) to any (or all) VEC's for consideration. Extra Class can assist in the preparation of all written and Morse code examinations. Technician and General Class amateurs can serve as Preparing VE's for the Novice Class question pool only. With the exception of the 5 wpm code test which may be prepared by General Class VE's, all code tests must be prepared by Extra Class operators.

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(4.) Volunteer examiners that conduct the actual amateur radio operator test sessions will now be known as "Administering VE's." The Administering VE has sole responsibility for the correctness of the candidate's test answers without appeal - although they may accept those provided by the VEC as correct.

(5.) Effective December 15, new § Part 97.27(e) extends examination credit to written test elements. An applicant may now take any (or all) written test elements and receive a Certificate of Successful Completion of Examination good for one year. The Morse code examinations can be taken later during the year to qualify for a license upgrade. (The FCC released a ruling on this November 7th.)

(6.) The FCC has announced that effective January 1, 1987, the maximum allowable reimbursement (amateur radio operator test fee for examinations above the Novice class) will be \$4.37. This amount is based on 1.87% increase in the Department of Labor Consumer Price Index. Both the ARRL and W5YI examination programs will be charging \$4.35 for all examinations administered during 1987.

VEC's TO ASSUME HAM TEST QUESTIONS

The Commission still has six unresolved Petitions for Reconsideration on the matter of turning the Novice, Technician, Advanced and Extra Class question pools over to the various VEC's for revision in the future. The ARRL wants the FCC to retain maintenance of all amateur radio operator questions and has threatened a court fight if their request is not granted.

We asked Ray Kowalski, Chief of the FCC's Special Service Division, how could question pool maintenance be transferred to the VEC effective December 31, 1986, without these Petitions being ruled on.

"In usual circumstances where there is no requirement to get concurrent approval from another organization - like the Office of Management and Budget - the Report and Order document would say these rules become effective on a specific date. That, of course, would be independent of any Petitions for

Reconsideration that may be filed or Requests for Stay (delay) ...or anything of that sort."

"In the case of a document that involves a form (FCC Form 610), a rule can not be put into effect until we have OMB approval as well. All we are doing with this Notice is saying that OMB approval has come through and the effective date will be December 31, 1986."

"That does not purport to rule on the Petitions for Reconsideration or Requests for Stay. All that does is complete the document (FCC Report & Order 85-196) that would have had an effective date inserted in it but for the OMB approval requirement. The Public Notice takes action 'now for then.'"

"Unless there is an intervening order that negates the Report & Order, VEC's will be maintaining the various question pools after the first of the year. That is not to say, however, that there will not be such an Order. Right now, however, the rulemaking is well on its way toward becoming effective."

"The Petitions for Reconsideration are still pending. Ordinarily these things get resolved during the ordinary course of business which usually would be in terms of 'months' - three or four months later. There is no firm time for action on those."

The W5YI-VEC also filed a Petition seeking relief from the new rule which specifies that all Morse code tests contain all alphabet letters, numerals and certain punctuation and operating prosigns. A request to the Personal Radio Branch for a waiver of this rule until our petition was ruled on was denied.

NEW POLICY ON TESTING IRREGULARITIES

I also asked Ray Kowalski about a major policy change involving FCC and VEC responses to complaints of amateur testing errors or fraudulent examinations.

"We are feeling our way along on this in terms on how to respond when you come up with examination irregularities. We had thought that we would simply automatically

"I am a currently licensed Extra Class amateur radio operator and wish to be a volunteer examiner. I have never had my station or under "The W5YI Report" Program? If so, please send a copy

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retest people at the request of the VEC. We are finding out that is not a workable way to handle these things. Instead what we are saying now is if you come up with a testing irregularity..."

(1.) "If the VEC still has the paperwork, the VEC advises the applicant that in accordance with VEC obligations to the Commission the examination can not be certified to result in an upgrade. The VEC declares that examination "void." The application is not forwarded to the FCC in Gettysburg because the VEC does not have the confidence in it." Any issued Certificate of Successful Completion of Examination is recovered from the applicant.

(2.) "If the application has already been sent to the Commission and an examination irregularity comes to the VEC's attention, then the contact person at the FCC in Gettysburg is notified by the VEC and the application recovered and upgrade rescinded." A license can only be set aside during the 30 days following issue.

(3.) "The final phase is if an amateur license has already been issued and an irregularity is discovered. Retesting will not be the routine response ...although we could. Unless that irregularity amounts to provable fraud or other cause for which we would revoke a license, we would simply take other steps like getting the irregularity out of the system."

"If it is a corrupt volunteer examiner then that examiner is separated from the program. Once a license has been issued the license will only be revoked if there is provable cause to do so. We are not going to try and retest every single person where there is a question."

Basically the new policy requires the VEC to resolve all reports of testing irregularities. All reports and allegations received by the FCC will be routinely forwarded to the coordinating VEC for corrective action.

The FCC also suggested that VEC's might want to ask prospective VE's if they have ever had their VE accreditation removed or have had a VEC refuse to coordinate a session they have participated in.

KANSAS CITY REPEATER COORDINATION

Kansas City is divided between two states. The Missouri and Kansas Repeater Councils jointly appoint the Kansas City metropolitan area frequency coordinator. The coordinator was recently changed to Wayne Fowler, K4QE. The previous coordinator, Barry J. Roseman, WA0LHK, of Stillwell, Kansas, continued to function despite the decision of the two councils that appointed him originally. Thus you had an area with two coordinators and multiple coordinations for the same frequency were very close at hand.

It was Roseman's apparent view that he had the support of the Mo-Kan Council of Amateur Radio Clubs and could not be removed by the repeater councils. Joe Eisenberg, WA0WRI, Lincoln, NE, (ARRL VRAC Chairman) said Mo-Kan is not the proper coordinating authority for the area. He wrote the FCC in Washington for an opinion on the matter. The FCC's Ray Kowalski responded:

"Two active coordinators in the same large metropolitan area which do not take each other's coordinations into account may soon cause repeaters in the area to experience interference. And it is the licensees of these repeaters - not the coordinator - who risk sanctions if interference occurs."

"The FCC decided against a national coordinator in PR Docket 85-22. ...also decided not to assume the role of a 'super-coordinator' itself, in the process choosing not to set up any appeal process to the FCC on coordination matters. But the FCC recognized that exactly the situation you describe could arise. Thus the FCC said 'We encourage local coordinators to participate in a regional or umbrella entity.'"

"The FCC intends to rely upon state and regional councils to recognize legitimate local coordinators. ...Revocation of regional and state council recognition of the other local coordinator is *prima facie* evidence that that coordinator no longer has the support of a majority of those eligible to establish repeaters in the area it claims to coordinate. Stations which operate with illegitimate repeater coordination do so at their peril."

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MORE: AMATEUR RADIO SERVICE PIRATE FREQUENCY COORDINATION PROBLEMS

Frequency coordination difficulties in the Amateur Radio Service are by no means unusual. Here is an unbelievable one from Karl Pagel (N6BVU) of Anaheim, California.

"Dating back to 1980 a fellow Daniel Granda, KA6VHC, from Whittier, CA, (originally from Argentina with an LU8 call) applied for frequency coordination on the 220 Mhz band. There were no frequencies available although we did have two frequencies set aside for Mexican use only."

"He put up a repeater on one of these frequency pairs. We told him that until he took his uncoordinated repeater off the air we were not going to honor his request for coordination. He has since put up another machine on another Mexican frequency. We have kept him uncoordinated for some six years now."

"When the FCC brought out PR Docket 85-22. He and another guy created their own coordination council called the '220 FCC' - for 220 Mhz Frequency Coordination Commission and grandfathered his two systems in as now being coordinated even though they were interfering with other stations. Granda also started a petition drive to get hams at the local swap meets to sign up to join his group to show legitimacy to his council."

"At the recent ARRL National Convention in San Diego I asked [FCC's] Ray Kowalski how the FCC would determine who the rightful coordinator was. He said that the amateurs should tell us who you want to coordinate your bands for us. So I started a membership drive for '220-SMA' - the 220 MHz Spectrum Management Association - of which I have been president for 3 years. I have gotten over 1,000 signatures so far."

"After about the first of second week of gathering signatures, all of a sudden my P.O. Box started getting jammed with all sorts of mail from around the country. Other members on the frequency board of SMA are being jammed on the air with Mexican music and talking in Spanish."

"Since I don't have controlling interest in any repeaters or remote bases, my P.O. Box is being jammed! I got an order for over \$20,000 worth of radios C.O.D. from Florida that I did not order. I got \$1,200 worth of computer boards on my doorstep U.P.S./C.O.D. Blue label from Dallas, Texas, that I did not order. I am subscribing to 45 different magazines plus the Wall Street Journal and other newspapers that I did not order...."

"My mother is starting to get all sorts of mail. I am getting letters and calls at work from various advertising companies. I do not know who is doing this but I have a few suspicions. It is hard to prove harrassment through the mail."

We tried to reach Daniel Granda, KA6VHC, in Whittier to get his side of the coordination story, but apparently he has no telephone. The only other Granda listed in Whittier did not know a ham operator named Daniel Granda.

VIARC APPLIES FOR DXCC STATUS AGAIN

Richard N. Olsen, K7AWD, President of the Vienna (Austria) International Amateur Radio Club has sent letters to all ARRL directors and vice directors requesting their support of 4U1VIC for DXCC separate country status. These letters are in addition to one sent to League president Larry Price requesting that this issue be placed on the agenda of the next ARRL Board of Directors meeting scheduled for January 1987. Copies were also sent to all major amateur radio publications.

Olsen says that after much correspondence and study over the past four years, the situation remains unresolved. "The amateur stations in two of the three major U.N. centers (4U1ITU - ITU Building in Geneva and 4U1UN - the UN Complex in New York) are separate DXCC countries while one (4U1VIC - Vienna International Center) is not."

At issue is the ARRL's changing of the DXCC criteria. "Extraterritorial areas" are no longer recognized as separate DXCC countries. The fact remains, however, that 4U1ITU's request for DXCC separate country status came before Rule 5(b) was changed!

THE ANSWERS TO ALL FCC TESTS ARE AVAILABLE!
The W5YI Report, even though a VEC in all regions

FCC-Novice Study Guide \$3.50 + \$1.00 postage
Code Tapes 5, 13 or 20 wpm \$4.95 + \$1.00 postage

New "Learn the Code" tape = \$4.95

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AMATEUR RADIO CALL SIGNS....

assigned through the first of November.

Radio District	Gp."A" Extra	Gp."B" Advan.	Gp."C" Tech/Gen	Gp."D" Novice
0	NV0S	KE0IW	N0HNJ	KA0YUV
1	NI1A	KC1AM	N1ELK	KA1OZZ
2	NU2K	KD2WL	N2GTF	KB2BUP
3	ND3Y	KC3ZR	N3FFF	KA3QEX
4	AA4WZ	KK4BW	N4OZP	KB4VGI
5	WS5I	KF5SK	N5JXD	KB5BCB
6	WY6X	KI6MA	N6OLQ	KB6OOZ
7	NX7Y	KE7VA	N7ISA	KA7ZVC
8	NU8L	KE8IE	N8HWH	KB8AMG
9	NO9R	KE9AK	N9GDF	KA9WFQ
N.Mariana	AH0E	AH0AC	KH0AI	WH0AAG
Guam	AH2Y	AH2BM	KH2CG	WH2AKJ
Johnston I.	AH3A	AH3AC	KH3AB	WH3AAC
Midway Is.		AH4AA	KH4AD	WH4AAF
Palmyra/*	AH5A	(*=Jarvis Island)		
Hawaii	(**)	AH6HK	NH6HN	WH6BMF
Kure Is.				KH7AA
Amer.Samoa	AH8C	AH8AC	KH8AD	WH8AAW
Wake Wilkes Peale		AH9AC	KH9AC	WH9AAE
Alaska	(**)	AL7IL	NL7JJ	WL7BLG
Virgin Is.	KP2Q	KP2BA	NP2BY	WP2AFF
Puerto Rico	WP4V	KP4LM	WP4AQ	WP4GHM
(** = Note: All Group "A" call signs have been assigned in Hawaii and Alaska. Group "B" now being assigned to Extra Class amateurs.)				

OCTOBER AMATEUR LICENSING STATS....

	October 1985	1986
New First Time Amateurs:	1,356	874
Novice Class Upgrading:	822	505
Technician Class Upgrading:	319	190
General Class Upgrading:	355	187
Advanced Class Upgrading:	213	178
Total Amateurs Upgrading:	1,709	1,060
Amateurs Failing to Renew:	2,623	(*)986
Change in Amateur Census:	-1,210	+112
Month End Census:	410,346	419,311
Club/Military/RACES:	2,781	2,631
Total Active Stations:	413,127	421,942
Percentage Increase:		2.8%

(* = 600 of the 986 amateurs purged from the Master File were Novice Class. The Master File contains 460,528 amateurs and includes those with expired licenses still within the grace period whereby their license and/or call sign can be reactivated.)

● Interesting statistic: Forty-nine ham candidates walked into VEC testing sessions during the fiscal year ending September 30, 1986, with no amateur license at all and left with Extra Class tickets! Of the 20,979 new fiscal-1986 Amateur Radio Service entrants, however, 19,147 entered as a Novice.

SEPTEMBER 1986 VE PROGRAM STATISTICS

	September 1985	1986
No. VEC's:	65	75
No. Test Sessions:	241	277
ARRL: 46.6% (1986)		
W5YI: 24.2%		
CVEC: 7.2%		
DeVRY: 4.3%		
Others: 17.7%		
Year-to-Date Test Sessions:	2,350	2,760
Elements Administered:	4,247	4,448
ARRL: 48.7% (1986)		
W5YI: 21.3%		
CVEC: 4.0%		
SAND: 3.4%		
DeVRY: 3.3%		
Others: 19.3%		
Year-to-Date Elem. Admin.: 48,535		48,011
No. Applicants Tested:	2,846	3,058
ARRL: 50.8% (1986)		
W5YI: 19.3%		
CVEC: 3.9%		
GLAARG: 3.7%		
Others: 22.3%		
Year-to-Date Applic. Tested: 31,976		32,973
Pass/Upgrade Rate, All:	61.3%	59.1%
Pass/Upgrade Rate, W5YI:	55.4%	56.0%
Applicants Per Session, All:	11.8	11.0
Applicants Per Session, W5YI:	6.7	7.5
No. Elements Per Applicant:	1.49	1.45
No. Sessions Per VEC:	3.71	3.69

● Interested in a <u>Ham Radio marketing position?</u> During mid-October, <u>Alinco Electronics, Inc.</u> , moved its offices to Torrance, California. Vice President <u>Mark Morisato, JN3HSC</u> , advises that he is looking for a sales manager. Contact Mark at: (213) 618-8758.		
● At the request of various electronic industry associations, comment deadline on the <u>FCC Notice of Inquiry</u> looking into requiring ATIS (Automatic Transmitter Identification Systems) on all radio transceivers (including those of the Amateur Radio Service) has been extended to January 19th, 1987		

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- Twenty-Fifth Anniversary Celebration of the Launch of OSCAR-1 will be held Saturday, December 13, at the Foothills Community College Electronic Museum in Los Altos Hills, California. Original members of Project OSCAR will be there. Contact: Ross W. Forbes, WB6GFJ at: (415) 948-5000 for reservations. (A few surprises are promised!)
- Ham/West Convention held on Las Vegas strip November 7 and 8 was very successful! Roy Neal, K6DUE, was MC, Wayne Green/W2NSD banquet speaker. Over 3,000 amateurs showed up! The banquet was one of the best we have been to!
- The (illegal) Eagle-One 440-450 Mhz 3-channel FM Handi-Talkie still being pitched to industry. Most recent outfit to offer it is Northern Hydraulics, Inc., (Toll free: 800-533-5545) with outlets in Minnesota and North Carolina. They specialize in tools, welders, generators, air compressors ...and the like. Salesman apparently unaware that a ham license is required. Flyer #824 says that sale (at \$159.95) "positively ends November 30."
- By presenting good amateur antenna ordinances to the town engineer, amateurs of Lake Clarke Shores, Florida, were able to get Ordinance 232 (adopted November 3rd) to provide for special allowances. Thirty-five foot antenna height restriction does not apply to licensed amateur operators who are also members of emergency communications networks.
- New Cadillac buyers are facing the same situation as amateur radio operators ...that being advancing age. The median age of the Fleetwood buyer is 60, DeVille buyers, 59. Eldorado and Seville owners buy at 50 and 54. The numbers understandably worry General Motors. (They need a little Novice Enhancement of their own!)
- Short waver Radio Earth broadcasts Tuesdays to Sundays at 0300-0400 UTC on 7355 kHz via WHRI in Indiana. A Friday feature is "Ham Notes" with Duke Alexander.
- A group of Uruguayan amateurs have obtained a license and call sign (CX0XY) to operate from King George Island (Uruguayan Antarctica) in the South Shetlands early in February. QSL manager is CX2CS. Exact date depends on Air Force transportation. (From Uruguay DX Group, Montevideo)
- The International Amateur Radio Network (IARN) sent a relief team to earthquake stricken San Salvador between October 15 and 26. It was headed up by Richard Horner, KZ1P. Team member Dr. David Halperin assisted in the surgery department at Salvadoran San Raphael Hospital. IARN is a private organization which has grown out of recent amateur radio emergency networks. Its net manager is Glenn A. Baxter, K1MAN, of Belgrade Lakes, Maine.
- The Defense Fund for Jack Ravenscroft, VE3SR, the Canadian amateur who had a permanent injunction placed against his ham radio operation by a judge from the County Court in Ottawa last January has swelled to \$54,557.98. (Over 10% came from the U.S.) Even though given a clean bill by the DOC (Canadian Department of Communications), Ravenscroft was found guilty of "Nuisance" when he interfered with a neighbor's appliances. A Toronto law firm has been retained for the appeal process. (\$25,000 has already been spent in Jack's defense, \$30,000 left.) Donations go to: Box 8873, Ottawa K1G 3J2
- Ninth General Assembly of IARU Region II was held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, during late October. The conference...
 - ...voted to outlaw SSB in the 10-MHz band,
 - ...enlarge the DX window on 160 meters,
 - ...recommended establishment of a 10 meter beacon by 1990 between 28.190 and 28.200,
 - ...asked the ARRL to allow member societies to check DXCC cards rather than sending them in to the League
 - ...agreed that dates on QSLs should be in YY/MM/DD format rather than MM/DD/YY,
 - ...agreed that when operating portable, the prefix indicating the country of operation should be given first rather than after the operator's own call sign,
 - ...recommended DX band plans (with DX windows) for the HF bands,
 - ...June 17 was selected as World QRP Day,
 - ...A world wide packet network was endorsed,
 - ...endorsed concept that manufacturers of electronic equipment should RFI-proof their equipment,
- The Calgary Herald (Canada) carried a feature recently about a novel use of amateur radio. A network of 190 ham operators were employed on election night to call in results from outlying polling stations. Eliminated was

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the need to search for a neighborhood telephone. As the votes were counted, ham operators at each polling site reported to one of eight net control stations who had direct phone links to city hall. The article said VE6RH, Roy Hookham, "revolutionized the city's vote tabulation process!"

● 73 Magazine has sent out a letter to advertisers denying rumors that '73' is "looking for a buyer" or "about to go under." Associate publisher, Stuart Norwood, said '73' is "on its surest footing financially and editorially in years" and is not being sold.

● SPACE (The Society for Private and Commercial Earthstations) and the DBSA (Direct Broadcast Satellite Association) have merged into one trade group now called the Satellite Broadcasting and Communications Association of America (SBCA.) Satellite broadcasting at present primarily involves reception of C-band programming by nearly 1½ million backyard dish owners. On the horizon, however, is programming and information services transmitted by Ku-band satellites to smaller and less costly earth stations. SBCA is designed to improve satellite delivery of programming for all satellite users - including cable operators. SBCA expects to be ready for business by January 1, 1987.

● The November 10th edition of Electrical Engineering News has an interesting study on "defeating the VideoCipher II scrambling system." At least five engineers have successfully demonstrated their ability to decrypt the video portion of scrambled satellite video signals. The audio cipher based on the NBS encryption standard has yet to be cracked.

● No one seems to know just how many backyard dish owners have purchased VideoCipher II descramblers. Best guess is about 100,000. HBO says it has already signed up over 60,000 TVRO subscriptions. All networks plan to eventually scramble. A new start-up company, Satellite Broadcast Networks, Inc., plans to offer backyard dish owners scrambled feeds of the three major network affiliates for \$49.95 a year.

● A recent issue of Newsweek reports that South American drug traffickers are bootlegging on unoccupied satellite transponder audio channels.

TANDY TO DISABLE CELLULAR SPECTRUM IN NEW 25-1300 MHZ PRO-2004 SCANNER....

On November 19th, Ed Juge, a long time ham (W5TOO) and Radio Shack's Director of Market Planning sent us the following letter...

"On October 29, the Wall Street Journal ran an article titled 'Eavesdropping Looms as a Problem as Cellular-Telephone Use Widens.' In it, Radio Shack was erroneously portrayed as a proponent of eavesdropping on cellular telephone conversations."

"Actually, Tandy Corporation filed a statement with Congress stating our support of H.R. 3378, the bill which makes cellular eavesdropping illegal. Radio Shack is a leading supplier of scanning receivers as well as a major manufacturer and retailer of cellular mobile telephones to the U.S. market."

"Given the technology of the cellular service, including hand-off of calls from cell to cell, the cellular telephone subscriber simply does not differentiate between cellular calls and conventional landline telephone calls. This is considerably different from other non-encrypted radio services in which users have traditionally had no perception or expectation of privacy. For other frequencies, we are absolutely committed to open air waves and will oppose any application of privacy doctrine."

"While it is true that our competitors are selling equipment capable of intercepting cellular transmissions, and some are actively advertising such use, Radio Shack has never sold a scanner capable of receiving cellular frequencies."

"As the Journal stated, we are about to introduce our PRO-2004, a 25-1300 Mhz broad-band scanner which includes cellular frequencies. However, Radio Shack will take the lead in supporting cellular privacy by disabling those frequencies in the PRO-2004. A notice will be included with each scanner."

"We will continue to monitor the action of other sellers of these products. We hope they will recognize the uniqueness of cellular service and modify their products also."

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THE SAGA OF KEITH LAMONICA, W7DXX

About a month ago we started receiving reports about amateur radio operators working DX through an unusual spectrum combination of 75 meter ham band frequencies being up-linked to a commercial satellite transponder. I began to look into this activity in earnest when an amateur sent me a VHS video cassette recording of this activity. We were asked was it legal to operate in this manner.

It seems that a Keith Lamonica, 43, W7DXX of a Salt Lake City, Utah, group calling itself "FM America" was uplinking amateur transmissions to hams around the country who also owned TVRO backyard satellite dish set-ups. Transmissions on 20 and 75 meters are uplinked from Murray, Utah, to the Telstar 303 satellite. Only the audio is transmitted on Transponder 18's 6.2-MHz audio channel. Amateurs have long distance two way communication by talking on 20 or 75 meters and listening to their TVRO earth station.

JUST WHO IS KEITH LAMONICA, W7DXX

"FM America" started operation on June 18, 1985. The October 1986 issue of "Satellite Dealer", quotes Lamonica as saying that 41,000 dish owners have paid \$20.00 each to join "The Family" and 28 have forked over \$1,000 each to become members of his "Executive Committee." This comes to nearly \$850,000! Reportedly, some 800,000 backyard dish owners tune into his nightly tirades. Lamonica has become the champion of the private satellite dish owner who oppose unfair scrambling of satellite delivered programming.

Few know of his background. According to the October issue of "Satellite Dealer", Lamonica is a convicted felon with convictions in Florida and Georgia as well as bad check and other convictions in Idaho and Colorado. A warrant is still out for his arrest in Largo, Florida. They also say that Lamonica was arrested at least six times in Georgia during 1980, five times for issuing a total of 22 bad checks, and once for driving while intoxicated. He was convicted and ordered to serve on a Georgia roadside chain gang.

According to court records, civil judgements are still pending against Lamonica in Grand Junction and Silverton, Colorado. Failure to make car and house payments resulted in thousands of dollars in judgements against him in Pocatello, Idaho, in 1985.

Lamonica apparently carries a weapon - a .44 magnum. "Satellite Dealer" said several eyewitnesses said he had it with him when he went to Washington this summer to testify on behalf of the backyard dish owner. If true, Lamonica could face a jail term of up to ten years. Convicted felons can't carry concealed weapons.

Other accusations levelled at Lamonica involve failure to deliver merchandise ordered against a credit card. MasterCard is investigating the allegations. Lamonica has stated on the air that FMA members are entitled to discounts from Delta Airlines, Best Western Hotels, Western Airlines, Hyatt Airlines, Hyatt Regency Hotels and Hertz Rent-A-Car. Apparently none of this is true.

Chuck Dawson, founder of the X-Rated FUN (Fantasy Unrestricted Network) Channel now heads up a competing satellite radio talk show called KSAT. He charges that Lamonica uses the satellite airwaves to raise a lot of money "...money that became unaccounted for." Lamonica charges Dawson with the same thing. He says Dawson has not accounted for money "my listeners donated" to a Texas lawsuit against HBO. KSAT constantly talks about Lamonica's felony conviction, bad debts and the outstanding arrest warrant.

"FM America" is now a publicly held company. Complaints have been lodged with the Securities and Exchange Commission about alleged irregularities in the public offering of "FM America's" stock. The FCC also has been asked to investigate Lamonica's use of "on-air profanity and scathing attacks on individuals."

The FUN Channel is now off-the-air. Federal agents arrested Dawson's successor for allegedly distributing pornographic materials. Until recently, both KSAT and FMA were both located on the X-rated American EXXXtasy Channel on Telstar 303.

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Charles D. Pellow, of Adkins, Texas, and Director for Media Relations for the National Satellite Alliance calls Lamonica, a "con artist." He said "It is my professional opinion that what we have is a petty crook who has found the 'mother lode' of the scam businesses ...the unregulated medium of satellite television." Pellow also said that "Because of several on-going state and federal investigations, I am not at liberty to discuss all of the activities in which Lamonica is involved."

So there you have it. The background of Keith Ernest Lamonica, W7DXX. The callbook lists his address as being in Silverton, Colorado. We have found out, however, that he actually lives at 922 Bullion in Murray, Utah 84123. He has a telephone, but it is unlisted.

LAMONICA REACHED FOR INTERVIEW....

I decided to phone him on his satellite call in "People Line" (801) 570-1000. After initial difficulty, I finally got through to Lamonica. My phone call was taken "live" and broadcast coast-to-coast on "FM America" over the satellite. One amateur (W4BME) phoned me after the broadcast saying that he had heard me. I asked Keith why he was uplinking amateur radio frequencies though the satellite.

"We are having a lot of fun with that," he said. "We do it on Sundays. We start off at 4 o'clock Eastern Time and the first one we uplink is 20 meters - 14.280 - for a ham radio get-together on Sunday. Because of skip conditions amateurs may not be able to hear others but can on the satellite. It gives them two ways to hear the signal. We also leave 3989 (kHz) on 75 (meters) uplinked on the satellite. The people are having a 'blast.'"

I asked Lamonica if what he was doing was legal. "Amateurs aren't authorized to operate from commercial satellite transponders," I said. "What I am doing is uplinking a certain frequency with no commercial or monetary reward. I am a common carrier. I am not like a radio station. I can have nothing but 'belches' and 'burps' on the air for an hour if I wanted to."

"It took me a month or so last year to verify through the FCC that it was legal for me to uplink ham radio transmissions. As long as the hams don't make a commercial venture out of it ...as long as I do not ...it is darn good PR for a wonderful hobby. We are not licensed the same way a radio station would be licensed. We are like a common carrier. You can swear if you want to. We don't have comparative hearings every four or five years. The uplinking of ham radio transmissions has been thoroughly checked out. Even our competition complained to the FCC and, of course, they gave us the clean bill of health on that."

I asked Lamonica who he talked to at the FCC, "I talked to the Chief of the Denver office, ...the Chief of the Portland office. You can talk to anybody in Washington because I have talked to them all. You are on the air, Fred. Our coverage area is from Bermuda to Hawaii and from the Arctic Circle down to Colombia, South America.

"Our signal leaves our studio goes via microwave to Murray, Utah, where it is up-linked on U.S. Satellite Corporation's Telstar 303 Transponder 18, 6.2 audio. The uplink facility is licensed. We do not require a license to do what we do." I asked who pays for all of this, "This certainly isn't free," I said. Lamonica said he paid for it personally.

"I asked him who FM America was. "I own FM America. Our main purpose is to show and demonstrate the rights of TVRO users. Our purpose is to fight those who would scramble television signals unfairly ...those that would charge an unfair amount."

"We are a country of satellite dishes in the back yard. We want and deserve programming. The goal of FM America is to fight for those rights. I am a registered, licensed lobbyist in Washington, DC. I have testified before the Congress and also the Senate of the United States." He said he would continue to uplink signals from the ham band "...as long as I live." Lamonica also said he frequently places the output of his 2-meter 145.43 MHz repeater on the satellite - "sometimes we tie in with other repeaters."

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Lamonica also said that Dave Sumner/-K1ZZ, ARRL General Manager was one of his recent on-the-air guests. "Barry Goldwater will be with us if we do not discuss TVRO. My purpose is two fold. I want to show the ham radio community that geosynchronous transmissions are very viable for reliable communications all over the country. Number, two, in the last eight months I know of 32 of our listeners that have gotten so excited about ham radio that they have gone out and earned their license." Lamonica said that he used to be managing editor of "73 Magazine" years ago.

Lamonica tried to give me an on-air demonstration "but my remote is down. My Commodore 64 blew its 'cookies' during a lightening storm a couple of weeks ago."

IS TVRO ASSISTED HAM OPERATION LEGAL?

There seems to be two schools of thought on the legality of all of this.

(1.) It is legal because it is no more complicated than a common-carrier phone patch which very frequently is routed via microwave radio spectrum and...

(2.) It is illegal since the operation constitutes cross band communication where amateurs are not authorized to operate. Telephone/amateur radio interconnection is basically wireline and any use of the spectrum is incidental. This is not the case where the purpose of uplinked amateur transmissions in the C-Band is to extend amateur communications range.

I decided to ask the FCC's Ray Kowalski about amateur QSO's that rely on common carrier satellite-delivered signals to complete the two-way contact.

"This is absolutely the first time that I am hearing of this kind of operation," Ray said. "This is indeed an area on the 'fringes.' I am not prepared at this point to say on which side of the balance it falls on."

"My first impression is that it does raise a serious question of legality. It may well be illegal. Amateur communications are supposed to stay amateur. We have strict rules against deporting into the amateur

service signals which originate from outside of it. You have an interesting legal question about signals which began in the amateur radio service and went outside. This is one of the things that make it a fringe area question."

"People that rely on the legality of phone patching to say therefore satellite up-linking must be legal have to realize that phone patching itself has always been on the fringe of proper conduct. All responsible people that I have read indicate that amateurs ought not to get carried away with phone patching as a way of life in order to avoid focusing a lot of attention on this area with possibly adverse results."

"I would say that common carrier up-linking of amateur signals will certainly focus a great deal of attention in the area and could lead to some interesting precedents. Every time you get our attention with a particular mode of conduct, all related modes of operation come into question and you take the consequences."

100th CONGRESS SPECIAL EVENT STATION

We recently received a letter from George R. Stephens, WB3DAC, Republican Policy Committee, U.S. Senate. Stephens is also President of the Capitol Hill Amateur Radio Society.

George reports that the Capitol Hill Amateur Radio Society station W3USS, operating from the U.S. Senate, will commemorate the OPENING OF THE 100th CONGRESS on the amateur airwaves from:

1400 UTC, Saturday, January 3 through 2300 UTC, Sunday, January 4, 1987.

	Phone	CW
Primary frequency	3.825 Mhz	3.530 Mhz
Secondary freq.	7.220 Mhz	7.030 Mhz
Primary frequency	14.240 Mhz	14.030 Mhz
Secondary freq.	21.300 Mhz	21.030 Mhz
Secondary freq.	1.850 Mhz	
Local 2-meter FM	146.550 Mhz	

All QSL's with SASE go to:
W3USS, U.S. Senate, P.O. Box 73, Washington, D.C. 20510